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LETTER DATED 30 JULY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the following statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union with regard to Guinea-Bissau, issued on 29 July 1998. (Copies in French and English are attached.)

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official Security Council document.

(Signed) Ernst SUCHARIPA
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Guinea-Bissau issued on 29 July 1998

The European Union welcomes the signing by the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the self-proclaimed military junta of a "Memorandum of Understanding" under the auspices of the "Contact Group" (Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Portugal and Sao Tome and Principe) of the "community of Portuguese speaking countries" providing, inter alia, for an immediate cessation of hostilities, the opening of humanitarian corridors and the beginning of negotiations.

The European Union calls upon all parties in Guinea-Bissau to abide scrupulously by this "Memorandum of Understanding" and to commit themselves constructively to the negotiation process for reconciliation and a lasting peace in the country.

The European Union recalls its readiness to provide humanitarian aid to the displaced persons and refugees of war as well as its willingness to participate in the efforts required for the social and economic rehabilitation of Guinea-Bissau.

The Central and Eastern European countries and Cyprus associated with the European Union and the European Free Trade Association countries, Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.